

# CHARLESTON

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



### Fire Damages Apartment Building in West Ashley

**Contact:** Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer

**Phone:** 843-958-6401

**E-mail:** [kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov)

Charleston, SC (May 18, 2014): At 6:44 AM units from the City of Charleston, Saint Andrews, and North Charleston Fire Departments, Charleston County EMS, and the Charleston Police Department responded to Colonial Village Apartments at Hampton Point at 1916 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard. The first fire department unit arrived and encountered fire and smoke conditions on the second floor of the 16-unit apartment complex.

Fire personnel initiated a coordinated interior attack and were able to extinguish a fire in a second floor apartment. One resident was occupying the apartment when they were alerted to the sound of smoke alarms. The male resident awoke and discovered a fire in the apartment and attempted to extinguish. After an unsuccessful attempt to control the flames, the resident exited onto the second floor balcony and jumped to the ground below. The occupant was transported to a local hospital with minor burn injuries and has been released.

Fire damage was primarily contained to two units and part of the roof structure above the apartments. Several other units suffered varying amounts of smoke and water damage. The American Red Cross was notified and is working to assist residents of 8 units of the 16 unit structure. The other 8 units will be able to be reoccupied today.

Members of the City of Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the cause of the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation at this time.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to offer a few simple safety tips:

- 1) Develop a home escape plan – whether you live in a house or apartment – and identify two means of egress.
- 2) If you live above the first floor, consider purchasing a home escape ladder.
- 3) Install and maintain smoke alarms in all homes. Every level of your home should have a working smoke alarm.
- 4) Once you have escaped a burning building, never re-enter for any reason.

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